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Direct current, applied to the resistive heating elements, has been discussed as the preferred power source for applying thermal energy to the structures surrounding and supporting anatomical valves. Other power source may be used, such as alternating current and radiofrequency current (RF). RF power may be applied in bipolar mode or monopolar modes. For bipolar application, RF energy will flow from one electrode on the catheter to another, such as from electrode 66d and 66p shown in Figures 7 and 8. For monopolar RF application, a ground electrical on the surface of the patient's body must be provided, and RF energy will flow from each electrode 66d and 66p to the surface ground electrode. Various other sources of ablative or injurious power may be used, including lower frequency AC electrical power, ultrasound energy, radiation, cryosurgical devices and chemical ablating agents. The energy is applied to damage or injure tissue in the body of the vessel that supports the valve which controls flow of fluids through the vessel. This tissue in the body of the vessel may be distal to the valve, proximal to the valve, or both. Preferably, the valve itself is not injured unless injury is indicated for additional treatment of the incompetence.

In the claims:

Cancel claims 6 through 8.

Remarks

Claims 1 through 5 remain pending in the application.

The Office Action issued a restriction requirement between claims 1 through 5 and claims 6 through 8. Applicant elects claims 1 through 5 for examination. This election is made without traverse.